

March 2, 2016

To members of the Public Safety and Security Committee of the CT Legislature:

I am writing to voice my support for HB 5408, which requires persons who carry handguns in public to have their permits on their person at all times and to show those permits when requested by police.

The open carry of handguns generates fear and intimidation among many members of the public. An individual's refusal to show their permit when requested by a police officer goes even further in instilling fear.

The approval of this bill is critical in honoring the public's right to shop, live and go about their business in a climate of relative safety and security.

In addition, I would like to express my support of HB 20, which will reduce the definition of carrying a firearm when intoxicated by reducing the prohibited ratio of alcohol in the blood to eight-hundredths of one percent or more of alcohol. The current standard defines the prohibited blood level ratio at ten-hundredths of 1%. Eight-hundredths of 1% would be consistent with the driving while intoxicated standard.

Finally, I oppose HB 5409, which would take away the right of police chiefs to ask for additional documents, in addition to the basic application, to determine the suitability of a person seeking a permit to carry handguns in public.

I thank you for your time and consideration of these proposed bills.

Sincerely,

Catherine Summ

25 Sugar Street

Newtown, CT 06470